

Semantic interpretation and second order empathy

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If empathy is the ability of Self to take into account Other's point of view, then the ability of Self to take into account Other's point of view as including a view of Self (and specifically, as including an empathic view of Self) may be characterized as 'second order empathy'. In this talk, I will suggest that second order empathy exists in different mental modes (visual, cognitive, verbal), and specifically, that verbal second order empathy leads to systematic ambiguities of interpretation, at diverse levels of linguistic meaning. These results will be compared with existing empathy research in linguistics.